

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 214030
ORIGIN OES-07

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D/LOS:MR. TAFT

-----004931 072356Z /66

P R 072217Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214030

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR

SUBJECT:SAN JOSE CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL TUNA ARRANGEMENTS

REF: (A) QUITO 5794, (B) STATE 212968, (C) STATE 110229

1. REF (B) PROVIDES GENERAL BACKGROUND AND U.S. VIEWS
ON SAN JOSE CONFERENCE. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING FROM
MEXICANS THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO TABLE ANY WORKING
PAPERS OR DRAFTS BEFORE CONFERENCE, AND WE WOULD BE
SURPRISED IF ANY OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS TOOK INITIATIVE
TO DO SO, AT LEAST WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH MEXICANS.
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MEXICANS APPARENTLY BELIEVE THE JOSEPH STUDY REFERRED TO
IN REF (B) PROVIDES ADEQUATE STARTING POINT FOR CONFER-
ENCE.

2. LIKE EMBASSY, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES BUSTAMANTE'S REMARK
REPORTED REF (A) THAT PARTICIPATION IN SAN JOSE CONFER-
ENCE MIGHT REPRESENT A BREACH OF US/ECUADOR UNDERSTANDING

WAS PROBABLY OFFERED IN A FACETIOUS WAY, SINCE WE HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DISCUSSED THIS VERY SUBJECT WITH GOE REPRESENTATIVES. IN FACT, DURING MEETING REPORTED REF (C), DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS RAISED WITH BUSTAMANTE DIRECTLY ISSUE OF GOE PARTICIPATION IN UPCOMING REGIONAL TUNA CONFERENCE.

3. HOWEVER, GOE MAY BE SOMEWHAT FEARFUL THAT SINCE U.S. HAS NOT CONTACTED THEM DIRECTLY CONCERNING CONFERENCE, THIS IMPLIES A LESSENING OF OUR COMMITMENT TO RESOLVE ISSUES BETWEEN US RELATING TO TUNA. IN REPLYING TO BUSTAMANTE, EMBASSY SHOULD REASSURE GOE ON THIS POINT, AND INDICATE THAT U.S. IS PREPARED TO WORK WITH GOE TOWARD A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THESE PROBLEMS. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- DEPT. UNDERSTANDS GOE CONCERN RE LACK OF PREPARATION FOR CONFERENCE, AND BELIEVES THAT SAN JOSE MEETING SHOULD FOCUS ON PROCEDURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS.

-- U.S. BELIEVES ECUADORIAN PARTICIPATION IN ANY MEETING TO DISCUSS FUTURE TUNA ARRANGEMENTS IN REGION TO BE VERY IMPORTANT, AND WE URGE GOE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN SAN JOSE MEETING.

-- U.S. HAS REVIEWED LATEST DRAFT LOS TUNA ARTICLE DIS-
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CUSSED IN NEW YORK, AND DOES NOT BELIEVE PARTICIPATION IN SAN JOSE MEETING IS INCONSISTENT WITH OR IN ANY WAY PREJUDICES UNDERSTANDINGS CONTAINED THEREIN.

-- WE BELIEVE US/GOE DISCUSSIONS IN LOS CONTEXT OVER LAST SEVERAL YEARS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL, AND WORK WE HAVE DONE CAN BE APPLIED TO UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS.

-- U.S. LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH GOE IN SAN JOSE, AND WILL CONTACT GOE DELEGATION UPON ARRIVAL TO ARRANGE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. VANCE

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